IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-22 and add claims 23-42 in accordance with the following listing showing the status of all claims in the application.

1-22   (Canceled)

23.   (New) A method of sending a message to a recipient, comprising:

obtaining a new message to be transmitted to a recipient;

comparing the new message to at least one message previously transmitted to the recipient;

constructing a difference message that includes identification information identifying an earlier message previously transmitted to the recipient and difference information specifying a difference between the new message and at least a portion of the earlier message; and

transmitting the difference message to the recipient.

24.   (New) A method according to claim 23, wherein the difference message further includes message subset information that identifies a subset of the earlier message and wherein the difference information specifies a difference between the new message and the identified subset of the earlier message.

25.   (New) A method according to claim 24, wherein the message subset information includes an identification of a data structure identified in the earlier message.

26.   (New) A method according to claim 25, wherein the difference information sets forth a modification of a data value for an argument of the data structure.

27.　(New) A method according to claim 23, wherein the identification information includes a code that uniquely identifies the earlier message.

28.　(New) A method according to claim 23, wherein the identification information also identifies a second message that was previously transmitted to the recipient.

29.　(New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the difference information references content that was identified in the second message.

30.　(New) A method according to claim 29, wherein the difference information indicates that the referenced content is to be inserted into an indicated field in the new message.

31.　(New) A method according to claim 23, wherein the comparing step comprises comparing a data format and a corresponding argument of the new message with at least one data format and corresponding argument in the at least one message previously transmitted to the recipient.

32.　(New) A method according to claim 23, wherein the comparing step selects the earlier message upon determining that the new message is similar to the earlier message.

33.　(New) A method according to claim 23, wherein the comparing step selects the earlier message upon determining that the new message has at least a portion of the same data format and some of the same data as the earlier message.

34. (New) A method of sending a message to a recipient, comprising:

obtaining a new message to be transmitted to a recipient;

comparing the new message to information accessible to the recipient in order to find information that is similar to at least a portion of the new message;

constructing a difference message that includes identification information identifying the similar information and difference information specifying a difference between the new message and the similar information; and

transmitting the difference message to the recipient.

35. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the difference information sets forth a modification of a data value for an argument of the similar information.

36. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the identification information includes a code that uniquely identifies the similar information.

37. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the similar information comprises information regarding a prior state of which the recipient was aware.

38. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the comparing step comprises comparing a data format and a corresponding argument of the new message with a set of data formats and corresponding arguments that are accessible to the recipient.

39.   (New) A method of decoding a received message, comprising:

receiving a new message that includes identification information identifying an earlier message previously received and difference information specifying a difference between the new message and at least a portion of the earlier message;

retrieving the earlier message based on the identification information; and

modifying the earlier message as indicated by the difference information.

40.   (New) A method of decoding a received message, comprising:

receiving a new message that includes identification information identifying accessible information and difference information specifying a difference between the new message and the accessible information;

retrieving the accessible information based on the identification information; and

modifying the accessible information as indicated by the difference information.

41.   (New) An apparatus for sending a message to a recipient, comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining a new message to be transmitted to a recipient;

comparison means for comparing the new message to information accessible to the recipient in order to find information that is similar to at least a portion of the new message;

message constructing means for constructing a difference message that includes identification information identifying the similar information and difference information specifying a difference between the new message and the similar information; and

transmission means for transmitting the difference message to the recipient.

42.   (New) An apparatus for decoding a received message, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a new message that includes identification information identifying accessible information and difference information specifying a difference between the new message and the accessible information;

retrieval means for retrieving the accessible information based on the identification information; and

modification means for modifying the accessible information as indicated by the difference information.